

The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear The Federal Communications Commission,

Congratulations on your appointment to Chair the FCC. In your new leadership role, I urge you to support the "Fair Share Plan" as a solution to current concerns with the Universal Service Fund (USF). The Fair Share Plan will keep the USF fair, ensuring that consumers like me do not pay the same rate into the USF as big businesses, regardless of how little I may use long distance. Currently my service is one of the worst in the country. I already feel over-burdened in the fees I pay monthly just to have service in my home. I feel it is inherently unfair to pay these exorbitant fees just because I choose to live in a rural area. Almost every call I make is long distance. Therefore I do not call unless it is an emergency. Friends and family feel ignored, but I simply cannot afford to call them just to chat. I would use my land-line every day if I could afford it. My only alternative was to purchase a tracfone so I could communicate outside my area.

The Keep USF Fair Coalition submitted the Fair Share Plan to the FCC on January 31, 2005. It expands who pays into the USF so that other technologies - not just phones - pay into the system. The Fair Share Plan collects the USF using a combination numbers- and revenue-based plan. This keeps the system fair, equitable and non-discriminatory.

Under the flat fee or numbers-based plan you are considering, people like me who make few long distance calls would pay the same as people or businesses that make many calls. I believe it would be unfair to charge low-volume and residential customers the same fees as high-volume residential or business customers.

I urge you to keep the USF fair, and adopt the Fair Share Plan. Thank you, and best of luck in your new position.

cc: Marlene Dortch, Secretary

Sincerely,

Linda Chaligoj
233 Co. Rd. 415
Poplar Bluff, Missouri 63907